

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the  
Eastern District of Michigan

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRANDON L. HENNERBERG

Case:2:16-mj-30112

Judge: Unassigned,

Filed: 03-10-2016 At 09:43 AM

CMP: USA v HENNERBERG (MAW)

Defendant(s).

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

On or about the date(s) of 2013-present, in the county of Oakland County and elsewhere  
in the Eastern District of Michigan, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section*

18 U.S.C. §§2251(a) and (e)  
18 U.S.C. § 2252A(g)(2)  
18 U.S.C. § 2422  
18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2)  
18 USC 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1)

*Offense Description*

Producing, attempting to produce, conspiracy to produce child pornography; participating in a child pornography criminal enterprise; coercion and enticement; access with intent to view and possession and conspiracy to access child pornography; attempt to receive and distribute, conspiracy to receive and distribute, and distribution and receipt of child pornography

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:



Continued on the attached sheet.

  
Complainant's signature

Special Agent Adam Christensen, F.B.I.

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: March 10, 2016

  
Judge's signature

City and state: Detroit, Michigan

Hon. Elizabeth Stafford, U.S. Magistrate Judge  
Printed name and title

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR COMPLAINT AND**  
**ARREST WARRANT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

I, Adam Christensen, having been first duly sworn, do hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I have been employed as a Special Agent of the FBI since 2010, and am currently assigned to the Detroit Division. While employed by the FBI, I have investigated federal criminal violations related to child exploitation, and child pornography. I have gained experience through training and everyday work relating to conducting these types of investigations. I have received training in the area of child pornography and child exploitation, and have had the opportunity to observe and review numerous examples of child pornography (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256) in all forms of media including computer media. Moreover, I am a federal law enforcement officer who is engaged in enforcing the criminal laws, including 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251 and 2252A, and I am authorized by the Attorney General to request an arrest warrant.

2. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for BRANDON L. HENNERBERG for violations of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e) (producing, attempting to produce, and conspiracy to produce child

pornography); 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1) (receipt and distribution of, conspiracy to receive and distribute, and attempt to receive and distribute child pornography); 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2) (possession of, knowing access, conspiracy to access, or attempted access with intent to view child pornography); 18 U.S.C. § 2422 (coercion and enticement); and § 2252A(g)(2) (participating in a child pornography enterprise).

3. The statements contained in this affidavit are based in part on: information provided by FBI Special Agents; written reports about this and other investigations that I have received, directly or indirectly, from other law enforcement agents, information gathered from the service of administrative subpoenas; the results of physical and electronic surveillance conducted by law enforcement agents; independent investigation and analysis by FBI agents/analysts and computer forensic professionals; and my experience, training and background as a Special Agent (SA) with the FBI. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing authorization for the requested arrest warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. Instead, I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish the necessary probable cause that HENNERBERG has violated 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(a) and (e), 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1), 2242A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2), 2422 and 2252A(g)(2).

## **II. BACKGROUND OF THE INVESTIGATION AND PROBABLE CAUSE**

4. On November 16, 2015, the FBI encountered a subject (S1) in the Eastern District of Michigan. S1 was in possession of child pornography, and has been arrested and charged in the Eastern District of Michigan for child pornography crimes. Both prior to and following his arrest, S1 consented to being interviewed by law enforcement agents. During the interviews, S1 admitted to accessing child pornography. S1 also informed agents that he was a member of a group of individuals that uses the internet to entice minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct via web camera. S1 resided in the Eastern District of Michigan during the commission of the above-listed crimes.

5. Both prior to and following his arrest, S1 consented to being interviewed by law enforcement agents, and provided the following information, which has been corroborated by the FBI undercover investigation:

- a. A group of individuals, acting in concert, used the internet to entice minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct via web camera. The members of this group primarily operated by convincing minor females to visit chat rooms on a specific website. (This website is now known to law enforcement and will hereinafter be referred to as "Website A".) In order to communicate with each other, the group members use base chatrooms

on Website A.

- b. The group members organize and plan in these base chatrooms, and then create other chatrooms on Website A for the girls to go to. Once the girls arrive in the chatrooms, group members work together to convince them to perform various sexual acts on camera. Everyone present in the chatroom has the ability to watch the girls engaged in these acts, and the group members record the girls. Some of the group members distribute the recordings to other people.
- c. Each group member has a different role. There are “hunters,” “talkers,” “loopers,” and “watchers.” The “hunters” visit social media websites commonly used by their minor victims to interact with the minors. They are in charge of convincing them to log-on to Website A. They provide the girls with a link to a specific chatroom that they or another group member creates on Website A.<sup>1</sup> Once the minors log-on to Website A, the “talkers” take over the primary job of conversing with them. They ask the minors to do ‘dares’ which escalate into sexual activity. If a minor is suspicious of the members in the chatroom or reluctant to engage in

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<sup>1</sup> The hunters often will convince the minor females they interact with to give them their contact information on social media applications like Kik, Instagram, or Skype. Their goal is to chat privately with the girls so that they can avoid posting links to Website A on public websites.

sexual activity, a “looper” plays a previously recorded video of a minor actively chatting and performing sexual acts in a chatroom. The “looper” pretends to be the minor in the video. The “looper” plays the video or “loop” of a minor engaged in sexual activity in order to entice the minor in the chatroom to follow suit. Finally, “watchers” are in charge of security. They watch the users coming and going from the chatroom to make sure that no suspected law enforcement members or other unwanted persons access the room. In general, according to S1, all of the members who are present in the room capture, or ‘capped’ the video stream of the minor being enticed, particularly if child pornography is being produced.

To “cap” something is to record it.

6. Specifically, one member of the group has been identified. His username on Website A is “**sam**.” In December 2015, **sam** consistently worked with this particular group of individuals to accomplish the common objective of getting minor females to engage in sexual activity online and on camera. **sam** would talk to minor females on social media sites, to include the webcamra broadcasting site YouNow, to entice the minor females to log in a specified chatroom to engage in sexual acts on webcamra. He also chatted with minor females to encourage them to engage in sexual acts. In

online conversations with the other group members, **sam** referred to child pornography he had previously been a part of creating through the enticement of other minor females. **sam** and others used the social media website YouNow to communicate with minor females online. The YouNow username utilized by **sam** was **Mr\_Flinstone**.

7. YouNow was subpoenaed for subscriber information regarding profile **Mr\_Flinstone** on December 22, 2015 and responded on January 4, 2016. In the subscriber information for the profile, the most recent login on January 3, 2016 at 19:18:55 UTC had occurred from IP address 24.246.192.24. Open source records indicated that the IP address 24.246.192.24 is owned by Diode Cable Company. In response to a follow up subpoena on February 3, 2016, YouNow provided information that **Mr\_Flinstone** had logged in using the same IP address, 24.246.192.24, on or about January 25, 2016.

8. On January 4, 2016, Diode Cable Company was subpoenaed for the subscriber information of the subscriber utilizing IP address 24.246.192.24 on January 3, 2015. Diode responded on January 5, 2016 and provided the address of the subscriber as: 5XXXX 703<sup>rd</sup> Road, Diller, NE 68342 in the name of BRANDON L. HENNERBERG. The length of time that BRANDON L. HENNERBERG had had that IP address was 2 years, 362 days. A check of Accurant, an open source records provider, indicated that BRANDON L. HENNERBERG resides at the above residence

with his parents. A check of DMV records from the State of Nebraska indicated that the licensed drivers at the residence included BRANDON L. HENNERBERG, date of birth XX/XX/1985, and his parents.

### Search Warrant Execution

9. On March 9, 2016, a federal search warrant was executed at the residence of BRANDON L. HENNERBERG, 5XXXX 703<sup>rd</sup> Road, Diller, NE 68342. HENNERBERG and his parents were present during the execution of the warrant. HENNERBERG voluntarily spoke with agents and stated:

- a. He was a member of an online group of individuals that communicated with minor girls online on various websites, including Website A and Younow;
- b. His screen name on Website A was **sam**;
- c. His primary role in the group that operated on Website A was to talk to minor females to induce them to perform sexual acts while on webcam;
- d. He used the username **Mr\_Flinstone** on Younow.

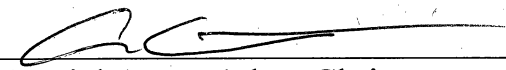
10. In HENNERBERG's home, in the basement bedroom which HENNERBERG occupied, a computer was located. When agents found the computer, it was on and active. Agents observed that HENNERBERG was logged in to Website A in more



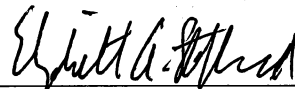
than 10 chatrooms. In the "My Documents" folder of the computer, in a subfolder "Bandicam," agents observed images and videos consistent of child pornography.

### CONCLUSION

11. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe HENNERBERG has produced, attempted to produce and conspired to produce child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e); has been in the receipt or distribution, been a part of a conspiracy to receive and distribute and has attempted to receive and distribute child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1); has been in the possession, knowing access, conspiracy to access and attempted to access with intent to view child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2); has coerced and enticed a minor in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422; and has participated in a child pornography enterprise in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(g)(2).

  
Special Agent Adam Christensen  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to me this 10th day of March

  
ELIZABETH STAFFORD  
United States Magistrate Judge